

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 02592 260857Z

12

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 L-03 H-03 PRS-01

DRC-01 MC-02 EA-11 /110 W

----- 087379

R 251600Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7081

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 2592

SECDEF FOR OSD/ISA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CG, US

SUBJECT: ARMS SALES TO ZAIRE

1. DURING MY FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT MOBUTU MARCH 23 HE EXPRESSED DISMAY AT WHAT HE SAID WAS CATEGORIC US REFUSAL TO SELL ZAIRE MODERN ARMS. MOBUTU MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE PREFERRED US ARMS, FOR WHICH GOZ WILLING TO PAY, RATHER THAN TURNING TO CHINESE. LATTER HAD OFFERED TO SUPPPPLY ARMS FREE BUT HE WAS RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT CHINESE INSTRUCTORS WHO WOULD ALSO BE PART OF ANY DEAL.

2. I EXPRESSED SURPRISE. I SAID THAT US WAS PREPARED TO SELL 105 HOWITZERS, CADILLAC GAGE ARMORED CARS, AND VULCAN ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY. MOREOVER, US WAS ALSO WILLING TO SELL 155 HOWITZERS BUT THESE ARE NOW SELF-PROPELLED. MOBUT SAID GOZ NO LONGER INTERESTED IN 155'S SINCE HE WANTED ARITLLERY WHICH COULD BE TOWED. MOBUTU CONFIRMED ZAIRE NOT RPT NOT INTERESTED IN LANCE MISSILE SINCE IT IS NUCLEAR WEAPON. MOBUTU EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION OVER CLARIFICATION AND INDICATED HE WOULD START INQUIRY AS TO WHY HE HAD BEEN MISINFORMED AS TO US POSITION. COL. MALLET (ZAMISH CHIEF) WENT OVER DETAILS OF
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PAGE 02 KINSHA 02592 260857Z

OUR POSITION WITH DOD MARCH 25.

3. MOBUTU AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS UNHAPPINESS OVER OUR
DECISION NOT TO SELL ZAIRE THE M-16 RIFLE. I CON-
FIRMED THAT OUR DECISION WAS NEGATIVE ON THIS
PARTICULAR ITEM.
VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Concepts: ARMS, MILITARY PROCUREMENT, MILITARY SALES, ARTILLERY, MILITARY VEHICLES
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Draft Date: 25 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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30 JUN 2005

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